

**--CLAIM OF BENEFIT TO PRIOR APPLICATIONS**

This application is a continuation application of United States Patent Application entitled "Routing Method and Apparatus that Utilizes Diagonal Routes," filed on December 7, 2001, and having serial number 10/013,819. This patent application also claims the benefit of the earlier-filed U.S. Provisional Patent Application entitled "Method and Apparatus that Utilize Diagonal Routes", having serial number 60/325,748, and filed 1/19/2001; U.S. Provisional Patent Application entitled "Routing Method and Apparatus", having serial number 60/314,580, and filed 8/23/2001; and U.S. Provisional Patent Application entitled "Routing Method and Apparatus", having serial number 60/337,504, and filed 12/6/2001. This patent application is also a continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application 10/013,816, filed 10/19/01.--